

Bagley Public Utilities  
Commissioners Meeting  
January 18, 2023

Chairman Thomas Lillegaard called to order the regular meeting of the Bagley Public Utilities Commission on January 18, 2023 at 2:00pm. Present for the meeting were Commissioner Stuart Lien, managers Bill Masterson and Vicky Fletcher, and Commissioner Dennis Merschman via zoom.

Lien made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the regular board meeting held December 14, 2022. Merschman seconded, motion carried.

Lien moved to approve the December 2022 expenditures as listed. Motion was seconded by Merschman and carried.

The Board reviewed bills presented for payment in January 2023. Lien made a motion to authorize payment of the January bills and Merschman seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion of the Union contract, and/or any other wage related items, was tabled according to restrictions outlined in letter received from MN Bureau of Mediation Services dated January 18, 2023.

Department updates:

- Masterson hired Reiersen Construction to dig up water service on McDougall Ave NW. The service was shut off at the curbstop when abandoned years ago but developed a leak that surfaced recently. Reiersen exposed line and shut off service at the corporation stop.
- Robert Garner at 313 Clearwater Ave NW has sewer line issue. BPU worked with plumbers to determine roots caused blockage/backup, and able to clear obstruction without digging service for repair.
- Internet project is on hold until temperatures at night are warm enough for crews to do node replacement work.
- Masterson contacted WSN and talked to Curt Meyers about submitting invoices for engineering services on the Hwy #92 Project. Meyers has been dealing with personal medical issues but plans to start office work soon and address the invoicing delay.
- MN Department of Health recently tested for PFAS in water/wells at Bagley. As BPU was not notified about test results no further action required.
- BPU received new discharge permit for ponds from MPCA.
- Masterson and Fletcher recently discussed the wage study with Paul Ness via phone call. Masterson and Fletcher need to finalize employee job descriptions. Masterson asked Ness to provide estimate on costs to implement the proposed adjustments from the wage study if Board approves his recommendations.
- Masterson briefly explained the situation and series of events leading to the start of legal debate between NMPA and the City of Warren. The issue centered around renewable power but has been resolved and Warren will remain a compliant member of NMPA.

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Lillegaard relayed information from the virtual meeting with USDA and others held earlier at 9:00am. An award from state bonding bill could help with financial burden but may carry stipulations on spending methods creating other difficulties. Terry Louwagie, USDA, expressed hesitation for utilizing bonding funds because of timing factor to keep project progressing, and additional regulations to be observed such as prevailing wages. Commission and Council will need to decide on pursuing state bonding funds or bid construction project with USDA funds already in place. Masterson stated decision needed once Phase II is approved by USDA and ready for Karvakko to put out for bids.

Motion by Lien to approve Resolution 2023-01 increasing residential and commercial rates for water and sewer base charges effective January 1, 2023. The resolution also covers the annual raise on usage charges of \$.10 per 1,000 gallons for both water and sewer. Motion was seconded by Merschman and carried. Copy of resolution to be included with minutes.

Motion by Lien to increase the monthly employee insurance benefit from \$905 to \$1005 for full time employees effective January 1, 2023. Merschman seconded, motion carried.

Natalie Olson has submitted a letter stating her intentions to retire from employment with Bagley Public Utilities, declaring January 31, 2023 as her official last day.

Motion by Lien to approve the action of management signing renewal contracts with Bally Sport North and A&E Networks through NCTC. Fletcher and Masterson verbally provided key points from each negotiated product. Motion was seconded by Merschman and carried.

Fletcher asked Board for permission to delay implementing the correction factor for natural gas into billings. Board agreed to push change back to March or April.

Board asked about delinquent customers.

Commission briefly discussed financial reports. Fletcher also suggested the meeting date of first Wednesday after the 10<sup>th</sup> may need to be revised, as the new billing cycle has subsequently shifted workloads and availability of items for meetings.

Being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Merschman, seconded by Lien, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

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Thomas Lillegaard, Chairman

Attest:

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Vicky Fletcher, Business Manager